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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 22 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period from 18 to 20 November 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the two annexes hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its two annexes concerning violations of Iraq's airspace circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 18 November 1997

1. In the northern region, 46 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Tall Afar, Amadiyah and Aqrah.

2. In the southern region, 134 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Nukhayb, Salman, Artawi, Chabaish and Basra.

3. At 1147 hours and 1151 hours on 12 November 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the area of Umm Qasr.

4. At 1300 hours on 12 November 1997, a helicopter coming from Kuwait overflew Mina al-Bakr.

5. At 1500 hours on 12 November 1997, the United States frigate No. 54 carried out manoeuvres to the east of Mina al-Bakr.

6. At 1125 hours and 1450 hours on 13 November 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the port of Umm Qasr.

7. At 0850 hours on 14 November 1997, a United States helicopter belonging to United States frigate No. 54 overflew the port of Umm Qasr.

8. At 1415 hours on 15 November 1997, the United States frigate No. 54 carried out manoeuvres to the east of Mina al-Bakr.

Annex II

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 19 and 20 November 1997

1. In the northern region, 54 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil and Baibo.

2. In the southern region, 180 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Nukhayb, Salman, Artawi, Chabaish, Basra, Nu'maniyah, Taqtaqanah, Qurnah, Jaliba, Afak, Hayy, Busayyah and Lasaf.

3. At 1010 hours on 19 November 1997, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace.

3. At 1020 hours and 1237 hours on 17 November 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the area of Umm Qasr.